

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 11605 090753Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----024472 090755Z /21
O 081140Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4209

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 11605

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP(CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: POSSIBLE SPEECH

REF: STATE 242251

1. I THINK IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THE PRESIDENT MAKE A SPEECH WHILE IN LAGOS AND THAT IT BE MADE BEFORE A LARGELY UNIVERSITY AUDIENCE.
2. THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF OFFERS SOME ADVANTAGES AS A POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR THE ADDRESS, BUT THERE ARE SOME POSSIBLE DRAWBACKS WHICH MUST BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. FIRSTLY, THE LARGEST AUDITORIUM HAS A CAPACITY OF ONLY 500 PERSONS. COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES, HOWEVEER, ARE HELD OUTDOORS UNDER CANVAS, WITH AN AUDIENCE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND. SECONDLY, THE LOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY IS SUCH THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING TO REACH BY CAR. THIRDLY, THERE IS PROBABLY MORE LIKELIHOOD OF AN ANTAGONISTIC DEMONSTRATION IF THE SPEECH IS GIVEN ON THE HOME TERRITORY OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. WE BELIEVE ANY SUCH DEMONSTRATION WOULD BE NONVIOLENT AND THAT THE FMG WOULD EFFECTIVELY RESTRAIN IT, BUT THE FMG MAY NOT WISH TO INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH A DEMONSTRATION.
3. AN ALTERNATIVE FORUM WHICH DESERVES CONSIDERATION IS THE

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NATIONAL THEATRE. IT HAS THE BEST FACILITIES IN LAGOS FOR A LARGE AUDIENCE AND IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP FOR A PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS THERE.

4. I WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT FURTHER UPON MY ARRIVAL MONDAY AND THEN, IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES, TO PURSUE IT FURTHER WITH OBASANJO'S PARTY DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT.

EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
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